

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for improving the printability of paper and a paper product ~~products~~ by enhancing the water resistance of ink-jet printed images, wherein said process comprises treating the paper or the paper product ~~products~~ with an aqueous solution comprising a cationic polymer, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of 50-100 % and comprises positive charge providing units consisting essentially of vinylamine units, has a charge density of at least 3 meq/g and is used as the sole treatment composition in the aqueous solution, wherein said composition is applied in an amount of from 0.05 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 5 g/m<sup>2</sup> to the surface of the paper or the surface of the paper product, and wherein after the treatment with the cationic polymer the treated paper or paper product is not coated.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the charge density of the cationic polymer is from 3.5 meq/g to 23 meq/g.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the charge density of the cationic polymer is from 8 meq/g to 20 meq/g.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer has a molar mass M<sub>w</sub> of at least 10,000 Dalton.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer is applied to the paper or the paper product with the aid of a size press, a film press, a spraying means, a coating unit or a paper calender.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A paper which is obtained by the process according to claim 1.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The paper according to claim 7, wherein said paper is an ink-jet printing paper.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) A paper product which is obtained by the process according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer has a molar mass  $M_w$  of from 50,000 Dalton to 5,000,000 Dalton.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer has a molar mass  $M_w$  of from 100,000 Dalton to 2,000,000 Dalton.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer has a viscosity of 3,000 mPa·s or less at 20°C.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer has a viscosity of 2,000 mPa·s or less at 20°C.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer has a viscosity of from 10 mPa·s to 1,000 mPa·s at 20°C.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is applied to the paper in an amount of from 0.1 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 3 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is applied to the paper in an amount of from 0.5 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 2 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claims 19-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of 50-90 %.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of 75-90 %.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of 50-75 %.